[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is about Rs. 30 a month.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then it is better that the zoo is closed.

PRESIDENT: You cannot argue; you can only put a question.

Extension of Service to Mr. Thomas Varghese, Sirkar Vakil.

128. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Is it a fact that the Head Sirkar Vakil has recommended a second extension of service to Mr. Thomas Varghese, Sirkar Vakil, Kottayam?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether they are going to grant another extension to him?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No.

(*b*) The extension of service already given to Mr. Thomas Varghese expires only on the 17th Medam, 1099. The consideration of the question of a further extension of his service is premature now.

Extension of Service to Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.

129. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) How many times has the present Additional Head Sirkar Vakil been given extension of service up to this?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the special reason why such special consideration was shown to this officer when other high officers like High Court Judges were not shown any such consideration?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Three.

(*b*) Mr. Subba Aiyar is still, in the opinion of the Government, physically and mentally quite fit. His retention in the service has been sanctioned on public grounds.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I wish to know what the 'public grounds' referred to in the answer are.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The ground is that Mr. Subba Aiyar's presence as Law Member of this Council is essential in the early life of the Council.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do the Government think that there are no capable Travancoreans?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, that is not a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: It does not arise.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has Mr. Subba Aiyar been certified physically fit?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No certificate is necessary.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has he been medically examined?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I is not necessary under the G. O.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Does not the recent G. O. insist that there must be unquestionable public grounds? Is this not against the G. O.?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The extension is not against the G. O.

Extension of Service to Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.

130. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil, Mr. Subba Aiyar, has been given an extension of service for the third time?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) of question No. 129.

Remission of Import Duty on Pictures for Church Use.

131. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Excise Commissioner has recently given orders to the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Alleppey, and the Customs Inspector in charge of the Alleppey Customs House, that no duty need be realised on pictures and other articles imported for the use of churches?

(*b*) If so, has the Commissioner asked for and obtained the sanction of the Government for the same?

(*c*) If sanction has been given, has the necessary notification exempting such articles from customs duty been published in the *Gazette*?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) and (*c*) Under the Import Tariff Notification, (item No. 102), statuaries and pictures intended to be put up for public benefit in a public place are exempt from payment of duty, and on a reference from the Excise Commissioner whether statuaries and pictures imported for being set up in churches would be covered by this exemption, Government have decided that they would be. No separate notification is, in the circumstances, necessary.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether the pictures are intended for use in the churches or for sale?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They are for use in churches.

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